

GS 0444 A US

REMARKS

Claims 8 through 21 were rejected as obvious over the Kunii '260 reference in view of the Mori '246 reference. In that regard claims 8 and 19 have been further amended to clarify that the control system is directed to controlling a working medium pressure for hydraulically controlling a contact pressure of a movable pulley against an endless torque-transmitting member of a continuously variable transmission. The basis for that amendment is the description in paragraph [0005] of the specification, which relates to the problem of accurately controlling the pulley-belt contact pressure in a continuously variable transmission to avoid too high or too low a contact pressure and thereby improve the efficiency of the transmission. Because of the amendment to claim 8, claim 18 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer because the substance of the subject matter thereof is now incorporated in amended claims 8 and 19.

Although the Kunii reference discloses a continuously variable transmission, the control system described in that reference operates to control the hydraulic pressure acting against a friction clutch (24) for engaging and disengaging a transmission countershaft (14) from a differential (22). The disclosure contained in the Kunii reference does not relate to a pulley-belt contact pressure regulation arrangement, and because that reference does not show any appreciation of the problem to which the present invention is directed, it cannot be said that Kunii teaches or even remotely suggests a solution to such an unrecognized problem.

GS 0444 A US

The Mori reference also does not appreciate the problem to which the present invention is directed. In fact, that reference relates to an entirely different transmission structure – a conventional, torque-converter-type automatic transmission that does not include a drive belt or a pulley over which a drive belt passes. Moreover, that reference is directed an entirely different problem – that of holding a forward speed when the driver inadvertently shifts the shift lever into reverse while the vehicle is moving in a forward direction.

Because each of the Kunii and Mori references relate to overcoming different problems from that to which the present invention is directed, one having ordinary skill in the art would not be led to those references. And even if he were led in some way to those references, the references, whether they be considered alone or together, neither teach nor even remotely suggest to such a person the present invention as claimed.

Claims 9 through 17 and 21 each depend from claim 8, either directly or indirectly, and therefore the same distinctions as have been noted above with regard to claim 8 apply with equal effect to each of those dependent claims. Moreover, the dependent claims each recite an invention that is further distinguishable over the Kunii and Mori references.

Similarly, claim 20 depends from claim 19, and therefore the same distinctions as have been noted above with regard to claim 19 apply with equal effect to that dependent claim. Moreover, claim 20 recites an invention that is further distinguishable over the Kunii ad Mori references.

GS 0444 A US

Based upon the foregoing amendments and remarks, the claims as they now stand in the application are believed clearly to be in allowable form in that they patentably distinguish over the disclosures contained in the references that were cited and relied upon by the examiner, whether those references be considered alone or in combination. Consequently, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and reexamination of the application is respectfully requested with a view toward the issuance of an early Notice of Allowance.

The examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney if this amendment raises any questions, so that any such question can be quickly resolved in order that the present application can proceed toward allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


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